6th September 1928]

Fisheries

Collection of statistics regarding the yield of inland fisheries.

*170 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the proposals under the consideration of the Government for collecting statistics regarding the yield and value of inland fisheries?

A.—No statistics are at present available regarding the total quantities of each of the various species of fresh water fish caught annually in the Presidency. An attempt has been made by the Fisheries Department to compile such statistics relating to sea fisheries on the West Coast through the agency of the staff employed in fish-curing yards. Arrangements are also being made for the collection of such statistics on the East Coast. For the collection of statistics relating to inland fisheries, the Fisheries Department does not possess the requisite staff. The best method of collecting statistics relating to the value of catches in rivers, banks, ponds and streams was discussed at the Collectors' Conference and it is proposed to address a few select Collectors asking for their suggestions as to how best the information required could be gathered.

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—"Was this not one of the subjects referred to the Fisheries Committee and have they not formulated any scheme to solve the problem?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"The Report of the Committee has not yet been received."

General

Alleged undertaking given by the hon. the Minister for Development regarding the Simon Commission.

*171 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether before he took office as Minister he gave any undertaking to the Governor or to the Government that he will co-operate with, or at least not oppose the Simon Commission ;

(*b*) the exact terms of the undertaking ; and

(*c*) the reasons why he gave any such undertaking ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Apart from the question of undertaking or not the Minister regrets he cannot answer any questions regarding his relations with His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister to say whether what is stated in answer to clause (*a*) is a fact or not. The answer is 'Apart from the question of undertaking or not' etc, I want to know what the answer to clause (*a*) of the question is."

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Minister says that he is not prepared to answer any question regarding his relations with His Excellency the Governor."